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Chief, Intelligence Information Staff, ORR

21 February 1955

THRE : Chief, D/S
Chief, S/TF

Request for further information

REFERENCE: [REDACTED] 17 January 1955
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BACKGROUND

Referenced document reads:

1. It has been reported that recently a Soviet arrived in the United Kingdom who called himself Ivanov and said he was Vice Manager of the Soviet diamond importing organization. He stated that the Soviets could supply bricks of half a kilo each, 99.9% purity, both in gold and platinum.
2. Ivanov requested a list of potential official purchasers for quantities up to 20 kilos, with a minimum amount of 5 kilos. He also asked for a list of potential unofficial purchasers and said that he would be able to arrange for delivery to any country required. In the case of unofficial deliveries, the quantities would have to be small.

REQUIREMENTS

1. Was purchase made by source? Did source solicit offer or did Ivanov make unsolicited offer? Did Ivanov appear extremely anxious to sell?
2. How was delivery made? Payment to be made? Through what banks?
3. Was a price mentioned? Could source procure a price? Could source make sample purchases if asked?
4. Could source make or procure an estimate of the quantity of gold and platinum available for such sales?

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5. What is source's belief as to the reasons why the Soviets are selling the metals at this time, in the odd sized bars and through other than official channels?
6. Was the list supplied to Ivanov? Could the list be made available to us?

NOTE: There is a continuing need for information regarding Soviet sales of precious metals.

REQUESTOR: [REDACTED] Ext. 3098

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